

## InterAct Ministries Joint Board Dialogue

Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA

February 5, 2016

Attending: Huron Claus, Dave Bedford, Mike Matthews, Chuck Schaap, Hugh Grant, Dave Perry, Jack Teeter, Dale Smith, Bill Twichell, Daryl Kroeker, Al Strawn, Gale Van Diest, Ray Prigodich, Keith Klippenstein, Randy Jackson, Sheldon Penner.

Others Attending: Lucas Orner (via video conferencing), Darris Arnold, Dan Mayerle,

Dale introduced new/returning board members: Dave Bedford, Rick Green (not attending due to funeral) are returning to the Canada board.

Devotional thoughts from the group:

- Gal. 5:1 – ‘Amazing grace, the chains are gone I have been set free’
- Heb. 6 – What legacy are we wanting to leave? What are we seeking to imitate?
  - Imitating Christ should be our goal. Studying His life and knowing how He would react and respond so we can respond in like manner.
- 1 Pet. 4: - the end of all things is at hand ... so pray, love, serve. It will likely not be a big plan or an ‘out of the box’ strategy to transform the world but focusing on these three “simple” activities.
- Jn 3 – the love story of Jesus – coming to earth out of love for people.
- Ezra 10:1 – Ezra and the people weeping and confessing the idolatry of the past. The call for us to be repentant of our idolatry - Col 1 identifies greed as idolatry.
- Matt. 5 & 6 – the reward in heaven implied through-out the beatitudes. The reward is something good, we don’t know what it is but it is something that we should be exceedingly glad about and looking forward to.
- The Gospel is a wonderful message that we live out and need to come back to again and again.

Time was spent in prayer.

### Reports:

#### **Russia Report** – Lucas Orner

- Lucas is excited about the Russia field vision that is being recruited toward.
- 3 EnGage’rs coming this summer as a team. Very encouraging.
- Frankie Emrick has put support raising on hold in order to move forward in a budding relationship with a young lady. Time will tell whether he continues toward ministry in Russia or on another field with InterAct.
- Continuing to work with Russian churches to encourage cross cultural understanding and ministry. This is a process but Lucas sees some growth and change.

Questions/discussion raised by board members:

- Is there a struggle with immigration in Russia for our missionaries?
  - No. As long as people follow proper channels and pursue 5 year permanent resident visas.
- Does the decrease in value of the ruble affect ministry there?

- Increases missionary income a little but mostly means Russian brothers are struggling more.
- Is the political realities affecting personal relationships?
  - People tend to differentiate between politics and personal relationship so it has not affected ministry.
- Would you be ready to handle a new couple or two every year?
  - Absolutely. That would be exciting.
- Are you seeing strong and healthy churches developing Yakutia?
  - Yes it seems like the church in Yakutia is reaching out and Lucas is thankful for the relationship he has with the Russian leader (name?). Lucas doesn't think InterAct needs to continue to be involved in Yakutia.
- The recovery center that Ted Mole is working towards in Namtsey (sp?) is continuing to move forward.

Time was spent praying for Lucas and the Russia field.

#### **Canada Report** – Dan Mayerle

Dan added some additional and updated information to his written report.

Ft. St. John, BC

Relationships are being cultivated with two couples who have an interest and some involvement already with First Nation communities in the area.

Redstone, BC

Dan is thankful for Dale's mediation and counsel in the dialogue between Steve and Don and Kim last August where a level of reconciliation was reached.

Kamloops, BC

Dan asked for prayer for Byron and Danielle Sayer as Byron is considering a job in Calgary. This would end their ministry with the Kamloops youth and have a significant impact on the Kamloops Native church ministry.

Eden Valley, AB

Joel Sewell has begun a worldview coaching role for four InterAct missionaries who are actively engaged in the worldview discovery process that Mike has developed.

North Battleford, SK

Dan expressed appreciation for the partnership with Keith's church, Territorial Drive Alliance. He also commented on the shift in a lot of churches away from just supporting mission agencies with dollars and people to wanting/expecting to be involved in the ministry of their missionaries and working with the agency. Several people commented on this shift and the strengths and struggles that can result.

Abbotsford, BC

Dan thanked Jack for his efforts in working with John and Tracey as they have struggled with their son. It seems that there is a growth and that John and Tracey will be able to work together for the best of their son and the whole family.

Winnipeg, MB

Dan commented on the struggle that it is for Akmal to follow the North American mission model of fundraising. This led to significant discussion about support models and possible solutions for ministry workers from other ethnic groups.

Dan commented on the 'flat' structure of the organization and the attraction that can be for some of the younger generation missionaries who are loyal to a cause and not necessarily an organization.

Recruitment

Dan reported that Mesh and Laura hit have decided not to continue with support raising or to pursue ministry among Muslim people.

Dan mentioned the need to be looking for a replacement for Jim Hamilton and the difficulty of finding someone with the experience and abilities that Jim has.

Time was spent praying for Dan and the Canada field.

**Alaska Report** – Darris Arnold

Darris added some additional and updated information to his written report.

LEAD:

Darris expressed concern that LEAD was put together with a vision of providing for the next generation what Victory High School and ABI provided for the previous generation. However the partnership does not provide enough relational connection to bring the students in. The relationships from the LEAD partners need to be the 'pipeline' for the students who could come into the LEAD program. Darris hopes to challenge the partners to step up in this area.

Fairbanks

Darris and Harry have talked about the leadership transition at Fairbanks Native Bible Church. Harry has a deep relationship with David Joseph as his mentor and struggles to know how to move ahead with the transition.

Hearts Going Toward Wellness

Allan and Linda Ross are not sure about the future of this ministry. They are getting older and are not sure who will take it on and whether it will survive. Darris hopes to talk with Alan and Linda about how to reposition this ministry so that it may be positioned to continue.

Lazy Mountain property

Darris is helping Doug to work toward being officially done with property maintenance by fall 2016. There is a young couple in the pipeline who have been accepted and recently a SEND couple has inquired about possibly filling a need as interim property maintenance in the short term.

Alaska Bible College proposal

Darris wants to ensure that the internship part of the proposal is planned and controlled by InterAct.

## Urban ministry

There is a significant population of Native people living in the cities in Alaska – moving from the bush villages to the urban centers.

Darris presented an unrefined vision of working with urban Alaskan church leaders to identify Native families in their congregations who could be challenged to reach out to ‘middle income’ Native families living in the cities. These relationships could then lead to more Native people attending these churches. There could be fellowship of Native believers from several different churches who are doing this kind of outreach but no one will be asked to leave their home church.

Questions/discussion raised by board members:

- Is InterAct structured to equip and develop Native believers in non-Native Alaskan churches to reach out in both village and urban contexts?
- Village ministry has potential for real appeal to some recruits. Can we capitalize on the things that are attractive in our recruitment?
- Should InterAct look at different funding models – other than individual support raising – to fund ethnic ministries and to resource/empower Alaskan Native believers (in cities) to reach out to Native families around them ... or in the village?
- Should some of the training in the proposal be ‘marketed’ as training for living/ministry in urban as well as rural Alaska? Should InterAct be providing a scholarship towards this training and proposal?
- Darris was affirmed on the proposal and encouraged to pursue a defined partnership with ABC.

Time was spent praying for Darris and the Alaska field.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Mayerle